



Fatality #30 - September 9, 2003 (Charge Back)

**Machinery - Surface - Kentucky
T & W Enterprises, LLC - No. 1**

COAL MINE FATALITY - On Tuesday, September 09, 2003, a 73-year old bulldozer operator with 42 years of mining experience was fatally injured when the Caterpillar D8-L bulldozer he was operating backed over a 32-foot highwall. The accident occurred as the bulldozer operator was back dragging a strip mine bench in preparation for drilling operations. At the time of the accident, visibility at the mine site was extremely limited due to thick fog. There were no witnesses to the accident.



Best Practices

- Be familiar with your work environment at all times.
- Implement safety precautions to address adverse weather, lighting, and visibility conditions (provide light towers and ensure wipers, washers, and defrosters are working properly and that window cleaning supplies are readily available).
- Ensure that mobile equipment operators wear seatbelts when moving equipment.
- When operating in close proximity to drop offs/edges, always keep the blade between you and the edge.

Initially, evidence indicated that the victim may have lost consciousness prior to backing over the highwall. However, based on the findings of the medical examiner, this fatality was determined to be chargeable to the coal mining industry. This is the 30th fatality charged to the coal mining industry in calendar year 2003.